



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 368

February Session, 2022



AN ACT CONCERNING SUICIDE PREVENTION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-52 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

3 (a) There is established a [Youth] Connecticut Suicide Advisory
4 Board, within the Department of Children and Families, which shall be
5 a coordinating source for suicide prevention across a person's lifespan,
6 including, but not limited to, youth suicide prevention. The board [shall
7 consist of twenty members, which shall include] may include (1)
8 representatives from suicide prevention foundations, youth-serving
9 organizations, law enforcement agencies, religious or fraternal
10 organizations, civic or volunteer groups, state and local government
11 agencies, tribal governments or organizations, health care providers or
12 local organizations with expertise in the mental health of children or
13 adults or mental health issues with a focus on suicide prevention, (2)
14 one psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this state, (3) one
15 psychologist licensed in this state, (4) one representative of a local or
16 regional board of education, (5) one high school teacher, (6) one high
17 school student, (7) one college or university faculty member, (8) one
18 college or university student, [and] (9) one parent, and (10) a person
19 who has experienced suicide ideation or loss, all appointed by the

20 Commissioner of Children and Families. [] The board shall include one
21 representative of the Department of Public Health appointed by the
22 Commissioner of Public Health, one representative of the state
23 Department of Education appointed by the Commissioner of Education
24 and one representative of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
25 appointed by the president of the Connecticut State Colleges and
26 Universities. [The balance of the board shall be comprised of persons
27 with expertise in the mental health of children or mental health issues
28 with a focus on suicide prevention and shall be appointed by the
29 Commissioner of Children and Families. Members of the board shall
30 serve for two-year terms, without compensation. Any member who fails
31 to attend three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings held
32 during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the
33 board. The Commissioner] The Commissioners of Children and
34 Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services, or the
35 commissioners' designees, shall [be a nonvoting, ex-officio member of
36 the board. The board shall elect a chairman, and a vice-chairman to act
37 in the chairman's absence] serve as cochairpersons of the board and may
38 appoint a representative of a local organization with expertise in mental
39 health or a suicide prevention foundation to serve as a third
40 cochairperson of the board. The board may adopt bylaws to govern it
41 and its meetings.

42 (b) The board shall: (1) Increase public awareness of the existence of
43 [youth] suicide and means of suicide prevention across a person's
44 lifespan; (2) make recommendations to the [commissioner]
45 Commissioners of Children and Families and Mental Health and
46 Addiction Services for the development of state-wide training in the
47 prevention of [youth] suicide; (3) develop a state-wide strategic [youth]
48 suicide prevention plan; (4) recommend interagency policies and
49 procedures for the coordination of services [for youths and families] in
50 the area of suicide prevention, intervention and response; (5) make
51 recommendations for the establishment and implementation of suicide
52 prevention, intervention and response procedures in schools and
53 communities; (6) establish a coordinated system for the utilization of

54 data for the prevention of [youth] suicide; (7) make recommendations
55 concerning the integration of suicide prevention and intervention
56 strategies into [other] youth-focused prevention and intervention
57 programs; and (8) periodically offer, within available appropriations,
58 [youth] suicide prevention training and education for health care and
59 behavioral health care providers, school employees, faculty members of
60 institutions of higher education and other persons who provide services
61 to children, [young] adults and families.

62 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 20-10b of the general statutes is
63 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
64 *2022*):

65 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of this
66 section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a minimum of
67 fifty contact hours of continuing medical education within the
68 preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing medical
69 education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2) reflect the
70 professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health care needs
71 of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in which continuing
72 medical education is required and not less than once every six years
73 thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training or education in
74 each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases, including, but not
75 limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human
76 immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, including, but not
77 limited to, prescribing controlled substances and pain management,
78 and, for registration periods beginning on or after October 1, 2019, such
79 risk management continuing medical education may also include
80 screening for inflammatory breast cancer and gastrointestinal cancers,
81 including colon, gastric, pancreatic and neuroendocrine cancers and
82 other rare gastrointestinal tumors, (C) sexual assault, (D) domestic
83 violence, (E) cultural competency, and (F) behavioral health, provided
84 further that on and after January 1, 2016, such behavioral health
85 continuing medical education may include, but not be limited to, at least
86 two contact hours of training or education during the first renewal

87 period in which continuing education is required and not less than once
88 every six years thereafter, on (i) suicide prevention, or (ii) diagnosing
89 and treating [(i)] (I) cognitive conditions, including, but not limited to,
90 Alzheimer's disease, dementia, delirium, related cognitive impairments
91 and geriatric depression, or [(ii)] (II) mental health conditions,
92 including, but not limited to, mental health conditions common to
93 veterans and family members of veterans. Training for mental health
94 conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans shall
95 include best practices for [(I)] determining whether a patient is a veteran
96 or family member of a veteran, [(II)] screening for conditions such as
97 post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief, and
98 [(III)] suicide prevention training. For purposes of this section,
99 qualifying continuing medical education activities include, but are not
100 limited to, courses offered or approved by the American Medical
101 Association, American Osteopathic Association, Connecticut Hospital
102 Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, Connecticut
103 Osteopathic Medical Society, county medical societies or equivalent
104 organizations in another jurisdiction, educational offerings sponsored
105 by a hospital or other health care institution or courses offered by a
106 regionally accredited academic institution or a state or local health
107 department. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may
108 grant a waiver for not more than ten contact hours of continuing medical
109 education for a physician who [: (I) Engages] engages in activities
110 related to the physician's service as a member of the Connecticut
111 Medical Examining Board, established pursuant to section 20-8a₂ [: (II)]
112 engages in activities related to the physician's service as a member of a
113 medical hearing panel, pursuant to section 20-8a₂ [: or (III)] or assists the
114 department with its duties to boards and commissions as described in
115 section 19a-14.

116 Sec. 3. Subdivision (6) of subsection (b) of section 10-222q of the
117 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
118 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

119 (6) Three appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of

120 whom is a representative of the Connecticut Education Association; one
121 of whom is a representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness,
122 Connecticut; and one of whom is a representative of the [Youth]
123 Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board established pursuant to section
124 17a-52, as amended by this act;

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	17a-52
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	20-10b(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2022</i>	10-222q(b)(6)

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*